

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Roswell Field Office

APPLICATION FOR CAVE ENTRANCE PERMIT

Complete this application and mail to: Roswell Field Office, Roswell, NM 88201-2019 {Phone: (505) 627-0278/0272}
Allow one week for processing. A separate permit will be sent to you upon processing. {Fax: (505) 627-0276}

Cave Names and Interior Destinations	Intended Use Dates	Alternate Dates	
		2 nd Choice	3 rd Choice

PERSON TO BE CONTACTED IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Name:	
Address:	
Zip:	
Day Phone Number:	
Night Phone Number:	
Email:	

TRIP LEADER: (Must be 18 years or older):

Name:	
Address:	
Zip:	
Day Phone Number:	
Night Phone Number:	
Email:	

Names and addresses of other people who will enter the caves*

Name:	
Address:	

Name:	
Address:	

Name:	
Address:	

Name:	
Address:	

Name:	
Address:	

Name:	
Address:	

Name:	
Address:	

Name:	
Address:	

Name:	
Address:	

Name:	
Address:	

* The consent of a parent or legal guardian is for all individuals under 18 years of age who will not be accompanied on the proposed cave trip by their parent or legal guardian.

THIS APPLICATION FORM IS NOT A PERMIT

PURPOSE OF VISIT:

- ☐ Recreation
 ☐ Photography
 ☐ Education
☐ Research
 ☐ Survey
 ☐ Mapping
☐ Administrative
 ☐ Other, Describe:

PARENTAL OR LEGAL GUARDIAN CONSENT

CHILD'S NAME AND AGE		SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN
NAME	AGE	
1		X
2		X
3		X
4		X
5		X
6		X
7		X
8		X
9		X
10		X

Continuation:

THIS APPLICATION FORM IS NOT A PERMIT



SAFETY AND CONSERVATION CHECKLIST WHILE VISITING & EXPLORING CAVES

- ☐ **INQUIRED ABOUT THE CAVE BEFORE TRIP?** When taking a surface trip, you would make it a point to learn something about your route and the type of country you would be traveling through. Do the same with caves.
- ☐ **AT LEAST ONE EXPERIENCED CAVER IN EACH CAVE PARTY?**
- ☐ **NO ONE ENTERED CAVE ALONE.** Minimum party of three is the Rule.
- ☐ **COMPLETE FIRST AID KIT WITH GROUP.** In case of injury in the cave:
 - One person goes for help while one person remains with the injured party.
 - Keep injured warm and treat for shock.
 - If there is any doubt concerning the extent of injury, don't attempt to move the injured until help arrives.
- ☐ **MINIMUM OF THREE SEPARATE LIGHTING SYSTEMS FOR EACH PERSON. HAVE SPARE BATTERIES AND BULBS.** Carbide lamps are good for emergency backup light and heat source. Chemical light sticks are a good backup light source.
- ☐ **HELMET REQUIRED FOR EACH PERSON.** Construction-grade hard hats or UIAA approved caving or rock-climbing helmets, with non-elastic chinstrap fastened at all times while in cave. **No other helmet type is considered safe in a cave environment.**
- ☐ **USED STURDY ANKLE-SUPPORTING, NON-MARKING LUG-SOLE HIKING BOOTS.** Leather soles are no good in caves.
- ☐ **USED STURDY PROTECTIVE CLOTHING.** Coveralls or pants like blue jeans and long-sleeved shirts. Kneepads and leather gloves are standard items. Leather gloves protect formations from body oils and serve to keep your hands warm and clean.
- ☐ **AT LEAST ONE QUART OF WATER PER PERSON.** Foods high in carbohydrates are good for this activity. A spare emergency food ration is recommended.
- ☐ **ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUGS LEFT BEHIND.** They cause disorientation and impair motor function, which can easily result in serious cave injury or death.
- ☐ **PETS LEFT ON SURFACE.** They are not allowed in protected, permitted caves.
- ☐ **AVOID ATTEMPTS TO PENETRATE PILES OF UNSTABLE OR LOOSE EARTH, ROCK BREAKDOWN.** These can be very dangerous!
- ☐ **STAYED WITHIN OUR ABILITY AND EXPERIENCE.** Never attempt to explore further into cave than a point from which you could safely find your way out. Continually look back while traveling through cave passages. They look much different from opposite direction, and being able to recognize them might avoid trouble. Do not use string or other trash to mark your route.
- ☐ **ON THE WAY OUT RETRIEVED ANY AND ALL ROUTE MARKERS.** Such as flagging tape or reflective markers. If you don't they may confuse others and you have littered the natural cave environment. You are
- ☐ **WORD LEFT WITH SOMEONE, STATING WHICH CAVE VISITED?** Left approximate return time and instructions that if not returned within six hours of planned time, someone should be contacted for help. State Police –911- has search and rescue responsibility in New Mexico.
- ☐ **RAIN IN WEATHER FORECAST?** It is extremely dangerous to enter gypsum or other storm-drain type cave if there is the slightest possibility of a rainstorm anywhere near the area
- ☐ **AVOIDED CONTACT WITH BATS.** Disturbing hibernating bats causes them to use up stored food reserves, which cannot be replenished due to lack of insects for food, resulting in death. Hibernating bats may also die from shock if they are suddenly awakened. All bats in this region are insect eaters; one bat can eat up to six times its weight in insects per night. Bat colonies are of great benefit to are farmers!
- ☐ **DID NOT TOUCH FORMATIONS WITH BARE HANDS.** Caves are very fragile and are subject to vandalism and unintentional damage. Many formations will break at the slightest touch and can't be repaired or replaced. Oil and mud from your hands will stain formations and inhibit their natural growth.
- ☐ **AT SURFACE CAMP PRACTICED LEAVE NO TRACE OUTDOOR AND BACK COUNTRY ETIQUETTE.**
 - **LEAVE NO TRACE** is a national program that emphasized to all backcountry users: pack out what you pack in, leave backcountry places cleaner than you found them, and leave natural and cultural resources intact for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations. This is how citizens can enjoin with public land agencies in maintaining and protecting beautiful, fragile public lands – arid and forested, surface and underground.
- ☐ **KEPT CAMP CLEAN – LEFT CAMP CLEAN. NATURALIZED SITE BEFORE LEAVING.** Earn the appreciation of those who follow you and set a good example for them, too.
- ☐ **RESPECTED PRIVATE PROPERTY AND OBTAINED PERMISSION FROM THE OWNER BEFORE CROSSING.**
- ☐ **VEHICLES, ROADS, AND GATES.** Leave all fences and gates as found. Park vehicles to avoid blocking roads or gates. Operate vehicles only where they will not cause ruts or start erosion. Avoid driving on two-track dirt roads when wet. Stay on established roads wherever possible.
- ☐ **AVOIDED DISTURBING WILDLIFE AND LIVESTOCK BY CAMPING AWAY FROM WATER SOURCES.** Watch speed during lambing and calving season, March and April. Lambs separated from mothers usually don't survive. Wait for sheep to clear road before passing.
- ☐ **USED ONLY DEAD AND DOWNED**

not doing anyone a favor by leaving markers behind – each group has to experience the cave for themselves.

- **REMOVED ALL HUMAN WASTE FROM CAVE.** Cigarette smoke is not a natural cave element and can impact cave life. People have a tendency to unconsciously flip cigarette butts, resulting in litter and organic waste. Spitting tobacco and leaving other human waste can attract microorganisms dangerous to human health. Microbial action on various types of human waste will cause unpleasant odors. Cave visitors are advised to remove all human waste from cave environments and dispose of it properly.
- **REMOVED ALL MANMADE LITTER FOUND IN THE CAVE, EXCEPT FOR SURVEY MARKERS AND SPECIAL FLAGGING TAPE, CLOSING AN AREA OR MARKING A SPECIAL FEATURE.** Burying garbage in-cave is unhealthy for the cave environment; on the surface, it is dug up by wild animals and blown around by the wind. Package spent carbide in plastic bags or plastic containers remove it from cave and dispose of it properly. *Spent carbide left in-cave kills cave life!*

WOOD FOR CAMPFIRES. BUILT CAMPFIRES ONLY IN SAFE PLACES AND NEVER LEFT THEM

UNATTENDED. Be aware of fire danger in area: you are responsible for checking with local, state, and federal agencies to find out if fire restrictions are in effect. A person or persons who cause a Wildland fire may be held financially liable for suppression costs.

CAVER'S MOTTO

**Take nothing but pictures & inspiration
Leave nothing but well-placed footsteps
Kill nothing but time.**